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EDITORIAL

FOR more than thirty years Mr. W. F. E. Gurley, of Danville, Illinois, formerly the official geologist of this state, has been one of the most systematic collectors of Paleozoic fossils in the Mississippi valley. Not only has he gathered together what is probably the best existing collection of Paleozoic fossils of the interior states, but he has secured a large amount of valuable material from other portions of this country and from Europe. The collection has furnished much material for study to such paleontologists as C. A. White, E. D. Cope, S. H. Scudder, J. S. Newberry, Leo Lesquereaux, and Charles Wachsmüth, and many types of the species described by these men are included in it. More recently Mr. Gurley himself, associated with the late S. A. Miller, of Cincinnati, has described many new species from the collection. Aside from these types Mr. Gurley has been fortunate in securing many other types of species described by Owen and Shumard, Hall, Wetherby, and Miller.

In addition to the types in the collection, which are about 600 in number, some of its most noticeable features are the following: an exceptional series of Devonian fossils from the falls of the Ohio, including crinoids, corals, brachiopods, and trilobites; a fine series of Kinderhook crinoids from Le Grand, Iowa; an admirable series of Coal Measure crinoids from Kansas City, Missouri; a large collection of fish remains from the limestones of the Mississippi valley; an almost exclusive collection of the vertebrate remains from the Permian bone bed near Danville, Illinois, including all the types of the species from this locality described by Professor E. D. Cope; and a fine series of blastoids and cystoids. Among the foreign material a choice series of Solenhofen slate fossils and an excellent series of Carboniferous crinoids from Moscow, are worthy of special mention. These features serve to show something of the contents of the

collection, but they constitute only a small portion of the whole. The entire collection is estimated to contain 15,000 species and several hundred thousand specimens.

Through the generosity of Mr. Gurley himself, this collection has recently become the property of the University of Chicago. It will be installed in Walker Museum as rapidly as possible and will constitute the nucleus of still further growth. It will be the policy of the University to make this collection, and the future additions to it, not merely an exhibition of rare and choice fossils, but a basis of research which will be open to competent students under approved conditions. It will, beyond question, prove to be eminently serviceable in promoting appropriate lines of investigation and will thereby constitute a notable contribution to the progress of historical geology.

STUART WELLER.